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REPORTS ON CROP-PURCHASE PROGRAM

MINISTER GIVES FIRST HALF 1950 FIGURES -- Tirana Bashkimi, 8 Aug 50

Gago Nesho, Vice Minister of Crop Purchasing, reports as follows on the crop-purchase program for the first half of 1950:

Crop-purchase legislation this year has encouraged the peasants to increase production and to seek new sources of production. Mountaineers have been encouraged to collect medicinal plants. Efforts have been made to increase hog production.

The crop-purchase system has established the position of the buying-and-selling cooperatives in the rural areas.

In comparison with the same period of 1949, the crop purchase for the first half of 1950 was 337 percent for wheat, 314.71 percent for fodder, 98 percent for meat, 1,294 percent for wool, 142.74 percent for sheepskins and goatskins, 153 percent for cowhide, and 117 percent for kidskins.

During the first half of 1950, the crop-purchase plan for meat was fulfilled 81.85 percent, for wool 63.53 percent, and for eggs 59.45 percent.

The plan could have been met in all respects. The failures were due chiefly to insufficient organization among the lower echelons of crop-purchase agents, and failure to implement the government's directives on schedule.

The principal deficiency was in the field of reserves withheld from the 1949 crop. With the full approval of the government, the Fier, Shkoder, Elbasan, Korce, Lushnje, and other districts still have substantial quantities of farm produce which was withheld for reserves in 1949.

The 1950 plan necessarily inherited the deficit from the 1949 plan. Thus the peasants were instructed to deliver their obligations under the 1949 plan before those for 1950.

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GRAIN HARVEST FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE -- Rome, L'Albanie Libre, 15 Oct 50  
/anti-Communist/

The Albanian grain harvest has not attained the goals expected. Government agencies have succeeded in collecting less than 10 percent of the planned amount.

The plan for the Valona district was to have been fulfilled by 23 August. By 25 August, the crop-purchase authorities had succeeded in collecting scarcely one percent of the planned amount of wheat, oats, and rye.

The complete failure of the crop-purchase program is attributed to the imperfect functioning of the People's Councils and the negligence of the mass organizations. A large share of the responsibility also is ascribed to agitators who would not intensify propaganda in favor of the government.

The villages of Kocul, Novosele, and Sevaster delivered practically nothing. Abas Kondo, president of the Executive Committee of Durres, was accused of hostility to the government and of being a kulak. Suleiman Gulla, president of the Executive Committee of Shijak, and Hysni Cyrbia, president of the Executive Committee of Maminas, asked for and obtained vacations for the entire harvest period. As a result, many farmers concealed large quantities of grain. Ramandan Bushi, secretary of the People's Council of Radoshina, was accused of underestimating kulak activity. Daut Bushi, collector for Radoshtija, was accused of not taking necessary measures against reactionary farmers. The People's Council of Seferaj, near Kavaje, made common cause with the peasants and said that the plan could not possibly be fulfilled.

PUNISHED FOR WITHHOLDING GRAIN -- Rome, Bollettino Danubiano, 7 Sep 50  
/anti-Communist/

More than 300 peasants of the Korce districts have been arrested recently for failing to deliver grain to the crop-purchase authorities. They were taken to the Elbasan Prison, and later many of them were released. Sixty of them are still being held there.

Many clashes between the Albanian population and the People's Militia during the harvest have been confirmed.

The disappointing results of the crop-purchase program and the assassination of the Political Commissars of the villages of Dardhe near Korce and Kocishte near Bilishte reflect the extremely critical situation that has been developing for the Hoxha regime during the last 2 months.

COTTON CROP SURPASSES LAST YEAR'S -- Tirana, Bashkimi, 30 Aug 50

Tirana (Albanian Telegraphic Agency) -- This year's cotton crop is better than last year's. About 15,694 hectares were planted in cotton in 1950, as compared with 10,65 [sic] in 1949. In the Durres district alone, over 1,000 hectares more than in 1949 were planted in cotton this year.

The best crop is forecast in the Lushnje and Elbasan districts, where irrigation is employed regularly.

This year, cotton growers have employed scientific methods, chemical fertilizer, properly timed cultivation, and other progressive techniques on a much larger scale than last year.

In the Elbasan district, the peasants are using Lysenko's method of pruning away unproductive twigs and branches of cotton plants.

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GROWS RICE FOR FIRST TIME -- Tirana, Bashkimi, 30 Aug 50

Lushnje -- This year about 40 dynyms of rice were planted in the Lushnje district, where rice had never been grown before. Both soil and climate in this district are suitable for producing large yields of this crop.

All technical aids have been provided for the growers. The soil is worked by tractor, and experts teach the peasants how to cultivate the rice.

A total of 50 dynyms of rice was planted in the village of Stan-Karbunare. This crop is also being grown in the villages of Sejmenas, Kocaj, and others. Next year 1,000 dynyms of the Lushnje district will be planted in rice.

CANALS FINISHED -- Tirana, Bashkimi, 22 Aug 50

Shkoder -- Work was completed today on the Ashte Canal. The new canal is over 1,750 meters long and will irrigate 1,800 hectares. Work was begun early in June, and was done by 2,200 volunteers.

The Dardhe-Drin Canal, which is over 5 kilometers long, now connects with the Ashte Canal. The Dardhe-Drin Canal will irrigate five more villages.

The two canals will irrigate the villages of Ashte, Beltoje, Hali, Hekaj, Berdic e Mesme, Berdic e Poshteme, Trush, and part of Melgush, as well as part of the "Perlat Rexhepi" Farm.

Tirana, Bashkimi, 21 Jul 50

Gjinokaster -- In June, the people of the village of Polican completed an irrigation canal over 4,500 meters long. The canal will irrigate over 250 dynyms of land.

The government supplied all the materials, including iron and zinc, and a bridge over 14 meters long over the main stream followed by the canal.

The people of Polican contributed 700 man-days of voluntary labor, saving the state treasury about 50,000 lek.

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